For Release: June 16, 2004   Contacts: Sherry Llewellyn
                                                                                                     (410) 313-2236

Police Charge Suspect with Multiple Robberies

Howard County Police have charged a Columbia man with three recent street robberies near the Columbia Mall. Anthony Turner, 19, of 10425 Hickory Ridge Rd., was charged with multiple counts of robbery, assault and theft.

Police responded to the Columbia Mall Friday for a report of a robbery in the parking lot near the Lord and Taylor department store. The victim, a 56-year-old woman, was walking to her car when a man pulled her purse from her shoulder, breaking the strap. She yelled for help and a citizen in the parking lot called 911. The victim provided a detailed description of the robber, who was spotted by an officer nearby. The officer stopped the suspect, who was identified as Turner, and placed him under arrest.

After a preliminary investigation, Turner also was charged with two additional robberies near the mall. The first occurred June 4 when a 75-year-old woman reported having her purse stolen as she waited at a bus stop near the Sears department store. The second robbery occurred June 7 when two boys, ages 13 and 12, reported being robbed of a wallet as they waited at the same bus stop.

Police are continuing to investigate and additional charges may be pending.

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